Now, verification of everything has been gone through. The gentleman has already died. It is for his widow. Therefore I want an assurance from the honourable Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I also add to the weighty arguments?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: As the Chairman has already pointed out, the honourable friend can meet me; in a genuine case the Government is sympathetic.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: It does not reflect on the efficiency of the Government that even after forty years of independence we are still groping to know who is a freedom fighter and who is not. We are wasting so many crores; we are giving concessions of hundreds of crores, and when it comes to a poor, old, freedom fighter we are verifying, re-verifying, re re-verifying for years. Even if there are a few bogus cases, it is better to grant pension to all the applicants rather than make genuine people suffer. There are old people who come and represent to us. We write to the Prime Minister, to the Home Minister. Even assuming that of all these cases there are a few bogus ones, it will not add up to a few crores. Since the Prime Minister is present here, will he kindly assure us that by a blanket order he will grant pension to all these people who are aged?

SHRI BUTA SINGH: It is not correct to say that the Central Government is found wanting in this. I do not propose to make this issue as something between a State and the Centre. But the fact is that out of about 4,45,000 cases, 3,40,000 cases are still pending. It is not because of the Central Government, but mainly because of the State Governments. We made a special drive and we have decided a substantial number of cases where we could use our discretion. In fact I have decided that we would send a team of officers to all the capitals where these cases are sticking. But, I am sorry, I have to inform the House that in some of the States including Andhra Pradesh, the pensions of the genuine freedom fighters were discontinued by the State Government.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: No, no. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BUTA SINGH: We are taking up this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Sukul.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Sir, in view of the kind and benevolent attitude of this Government towards the freedom fighters, especially the various concessions available to them, I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether the freedom fighters' pension is also commutable as is the case with regard to the pension of the retired public servants and, if not, whether the Government would consider making it commutable at least to the extent of one-third amount of the pension.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: There is no provision for this, Sir. This is only a suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Next Question. Question No. 42. Mr. Yadav.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Sir, I have got a case pending in U.P.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Nothing will go on record. Question No. 42. Mr. Yadav.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing of what he says will go on record. Everybody cannot be given a chance.

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रकाशित पत्रिकाएं

*42. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :** क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय विभिन्न मंत्रालयों/

*Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

विभागों के लिये लगभग एक दर्जन पत्रिकायें प्रकाशित करता है और यदि हां, तो कितनी पत्रिकायें हिन्दी में हैं तथा हिन्दी की ऐसी पत्रिकायें कितनी हैं जिनका संपादन अंग्रेजी की पत्रिकाओं के संपादक करते हैं; और

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि मंत्रालय ने राष्ट्र कवि मैथिलीशरण गुप्त की जन्म शताब्दी समारोह के उपलक्ष में कोई विशेषांक नहीं निकाला है और यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत पांजा) : (क) अन्य मन्त्रालयों/विभागों की ओर से प्रकाशित की जाने वाली 15 पत्रिकाओं में से 2 पत्रिकाएं हिन्दी में प्रकाशित की जाती हैं। हिन्दी की पत्रिकाओं से संबंधित सम्पादकीय कार्य हिन्दी में प्रवीणता प्राप्त कर्मचारियों द्वारा किया जाता है ।

(ख) जी, हां । तथापि, कवि पर विशेष लेख "आजकल" (हिन्दी) और "बाल भारती" में प्रकाशित किए गए थे ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं नए सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री का स्वागत करता हूं और आशा करता हूं कि नये मंत्री जी राजभाषा पर कृपा करेंगे न कि पूर्व मंत्र के समान भारतीय भाषाओं को दो समाचार एजेंसीज को समाप्त करने जैसा कार्य करेंगे । जब 15 पत्रिकायें निकलती हैं तो उनमें राजभाषा की भी होनी चाहिए । दूसरे, 15 जो अंग्रेजी के समाचारपत्र हैं उनके सबके सम्पादक हैं, लेकिन जो राजभाषा की पत्रिकायें हैं उनमें प्रोफीशिएंसी नाम से सम्पादक कहा जाता न इनके लिये पूरा स्टाफ है । इसका एक उदाहरण मैं आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूं । भगीरथ पत्रिका पहले इसी विभाग से निकलती थी । जब वह साल भर नहीं निकली तो मैंने फ्लोर आफ द हाउस बताया । तब आपके विभाग ने कहा कि हम प्रकाशित नहीं करेंगे, विभाग प्रकाशित करे । सम्पादक न रहने के कारण, स्टाफ न रहने के कारण पत्रिकायें समय पर नहीं निकलती हैं । एक तो यह प्रश्न है ।

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, there are two parts to this supplementary. So far as the fifteen periodicals about which I have answered in my written reply are concerned, out of these, twelve are "Yojana" published for the Planning Commission and out of these twelve, one is in the Hindi language and the others are in the different languages of the country. The other Hindi one is the "Kurukshetra" of which two volumes are issued, one in Hindi and one in English. As regards the publication of two Hindi alone is concerned, in fact there are four main journals. Out of these, two are in Hindi. But, of course, when "Yojana" is published in the different languages of the different States, we try to give specific items of that particular State so that the regional activities are also known and come out in these journals.

So far as the second part of his supplementary is concerned, I find that with regard to the proficiency of the editors, the Editor of "Ajkal" is qualified and is a B.A. in Hindi, and the Editor of "Bal Bharati" is qualified and is a B.A. in Hindi and an M.A. in Political Science, and the "Yojana" Editor is also a B.A. in Hindi. I have looked into it in detail.

AN HON. MEMBER: They are not full-fledged Editors. (*Interruptions*)

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : संपादक नहीं हैं ये ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister complete.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Shri Narendra Singh, Editor of 'Aajkal' is B.A. in Hindi. The 'Bal Bharati' Editor, Shri Shiv Kumar, is B. A. in Hindi and M.A. in Political Science. The 'Yojana' Editor, Shri Murari Lal, is BA. in Hindi. The Chief Editor of 'Yojana' is the Co-ordinator of all the 12 languages. He is Shri S. Z. Hassan, B.A. (Hons.) in Urdu and knows Hindi well.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : श्रीमन, मैं ने पूछा था कि जो हिन्दी की "योजना" है उसका कोई हिन्दी का संपादक नहीं है ।

एफीशियेंट कह कर उसको हम सम्पादक नहीं मान सकते। इसी लिये मैंने कहा था कि आप हिन्दी पत्रिका को सम्पादक नहीं देरहे हैं ।

दूसरे, राष्ट्रकवि मैथिलीशरण गुप्त का जन्म शताब्दी समारोह राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मनाया जा रहा है और सभी पत्रिकाओं से आग्रह किया गया था कि उस समारोह के अवसर पर वे विशेषांक निकालें । दूसरी पत्रिकाओं ने निकाले भी, लेकिन आप की पत्रिका ने ही वह नहीं निकाला । ऐसा क्यों?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, so far as our great, well-known poet Maithilisharan Gupt is concerned, the 'Aajkal' did publish an article in September 1986. The October issue will publish a write-up giving the details of his birth centenary celebration, in that also the reminiscences of this great poet will come up. Along with that, Sir, the 'Bal Bharati' has published the photograph for children with a small, though not enough, sketch about the poet. We are going to publish a book taking the main writings of this poet and his great messages to the country. Sir, the Radio and Television also covered the birth celebrations of this great poet.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, would the Minister kindly inform us as to the criteria used for publication of. . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Why don't you ask in Hindi? (*Interruptions*)

एक माननीय सदस्य : आप भी तो हिन्दी में बोलिये ।

श्री विश्व बन्धु गुप्ता : मान्यवर, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो पब्लिकेशन सरकार की तरफ से निकाले जा रहे हैं उनका क्राइटेरिया क्या है ? किस आधार पर वह दूसरी-दूसरी भाषाओं में निकलते हैं ? क्या इसका आधार पापुलेशन है या जितने लोग हिन्दी या दूसरी भाषायें बोलते हैं उस पर है, क्योंकि 12 आप के पब्लिकेशन्स हैं और मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि उनके लिये क्या आधार आप रखते हैं ?

एक माननीय सदस्य : हिन्दी सवाल का जवाब भी हिन्दी में होना चाहिये

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, there are in fact, not 12 but 15 publications.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Please speak in Hindi. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: He is more sensible. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members as well as Ministers have perfect freedom to speak either in Hindi or in English, of their choice. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, the main criterion is to project matters of national importance, internal and external. Then, Sir, the second criterion is to publish specialised works as the Department has done the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi and the Builders of Modern Indian series have been published. Sir, so far we have under the Constitution 15 recognized languages. I have looked into the matter, and wherever I find that more attention has not been given we are having discussions. Certainly, Sir, we shall see that out of 15 recognised languages, as far as possible, these publications are published.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मान्यवर यह स्पष्ट हो गया कि राज भाषा हिन्दी की उपेक्षा हो रही है और अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं की भी उपेक्षा हो रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि कौन-कौन ऐसी भारतीय भाषायें हैं जिन में सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय द्वारा या इसके निर्देशन में पत्रिकाओं का प्रकाशन नहीं हो रहा है और यदि कोई भारतीय भाषा ऐसी है तो क्या उसमें भी प्रकाशन की चेष्टा की जायेगी ?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, Yojna is being publish in Hindi, English, Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati, Malayalam, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu, Kannada and Punjabi. These are the languages. Sir, as I said, I have already called a meeting and the suggestions of the hon. Members would be considered.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Press

Information Bureau attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting sent a circular to all Central Government offices throughout India compelling the staff members that they should sign files and letters in Hindi and that letter should be sent in Hindi to observe the Hindi Week? You cannot take shelter saying that that circular has lapsed. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, to alloy the fears of non-Hindi speaking people gave a solemn assurance that Hindi shall not be imposed and that English shall continue. But this Government is throwing this assurance to the winds without taking any care for the feelings of the non-Hindi-speaking people. This Government is trying to impose Hindi on non-Hindi spaking people through covert and overt means. Sir, unity and integrity cannot be strengthened and preserved either by such coercion or by such cajolary as our people are shouting here. (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister ... (*Interruptions*) This is their attitude. This is the House where we can ventilate our grievances. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether he would come forward to give a constitutional guarantee to that assurance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Sir, I have already given that assurance on a number of occasions and I do not think it needs to be brought into the Constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swaminathan.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You are not honouring that assurance. That is why you have sent a circular.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: The hon. Member is totally mistaken. This is not a circular which has been sent for the first time this year. This circular has been sent on a number of occasions many years earlier. There had been no problem in earlier years. It is a circular which is effective only for one week, not more than seven days or perhaps even five days if it is a five-day week. There is no deviation from our stand that Pandit Ji had taken on languages and we do not intend to make any deviation from that stand.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: That circular is totally contradictory to the assurance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. After the Prime Minister's assurance, no more questions on this.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, you have called my name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was before the Prime Minister's reply. Now, the Prime Minister has given a reply.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I am not asking that question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We take up Question No. 43.

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: Sir, . . .

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मैंने हिन्दी में सवाल पूछा है इसलिये मझे हिन्दी में जवाब दिया जाए । यह महाराष्ट्र के रहने वाले हैं हिन्दी में बोल सकते हैं ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want this controversy to be raised always. The Minister is at perfect liberty to answer the question in Hindi or English. You cannot compel him to answer in a particular language. Please go on, Mr. Minister.

Disappearance of a model firearm from the Defence pavilion

*43. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH:†

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a model firearm, resembling Sten gun, had recently disappeared under mysterious circumstances for some time from the Defence pavilion at Pragati Maidan in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, stating the result of the inquiry

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ram Awadesh Singh.